

~~a flange, adapted for insertion in a mouth, having a first and second surface; said flange further including a protrusion extending from said first surface of said flange; and~~

~~an aperture formed through said first and second surfaces of said flange, wherein said protrusion covers said aperture, whereby said protrusion forms a hollow chamber, said hollow chamber being accessible through said aperture from said second side of said flange.~~

2. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said flange and protrusion are formed as a unitary body.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 2 1, wherein said aperture is adapted to receive a tongue.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 2 1, wherein said device is constructed of a pliable material chosen from the group consisting of polyethylene, urethane, silicon, and polyvinylchloride.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 2 1, wherein a vacuum may be formed within said protrusion by compressing said protrusion and inserting a tongue into said aperture.

6. **(Currently Amended)**. The device according to Claim 2 1, wherein said flange is further adapted to be received between a person's lips and teeth or alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A device for retaining a tongue in a pre-determined position, the device comprising:

~~a flange having a first and second surface, an aperture disposed within said flange wherein said aperture further includes walls extending from said first surface of a said flange, said walls forming a bulb protruding from said first surface of said flange, wherein said bulb forms a chamber in communication with said aperture and being adapted to receive a tongue and wherein said flange and said bulb are formed of a unitary body.~~

8. Claim 8 (**Cancelled**).

9. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 8 7, wherein a vacuum is formed in said bulb by compressing said walls and inserting a tongue into said aperture.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 9 7, wherein said walls form a smooth continuous surface with said first surface of said flange.

11. **(Currently Amended)**. The device according to Claim 8 7, wherein said flange is adapted to be received between a person's lips and teeth or alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 7, wherein said device is constructed of one of the materials chosen from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, urethane, polyethylene, and silicon.

13. **(Original)** A method of retaining a tongue in a predetermined position, the method comprising:

forming a vacuum within a tongue retention device by squeezing the walls of a protrusion extending from a flange of said tongue retention device;

inserting a tongue through an aperture formed in said flange, wherein said tongue is received by said protrusion;

releasing said walls, thereby forming a vacuum within said protrusion; and positioning said tongue retention device between a user's lips and teeth.